



# Calls to Worship, Hymns & Poetry

*A Resource for Worship on Native  
American Ministries Sunday*



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

The background of the top half of the page is a photograph of two white tipis standing on a dark ground under a night sky filled with stars. The tipis are illuminated from within, and their ladders are visible. The word "Introduction" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters across the middle of the image.

# Introduction

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On Native American Ministries Sunday, we gather to give generously to support Native American congregations in the United Methodist Church and to equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries.

On this day, we empower our Native American family to worship and serve as a community in the way that honors both their heritage and Christ.

This is a collection of songs, hymns, and poetry you can use on this very special Sunday.





# Calls to Worship

*By The Rev. Jeff Ramsland, pastor of the Cherokee United  
Methodist Church in Cherokee, NC*



# Peace Be Still!

Our Lord Jesus spoke to the storm, saying “Peace, be still.”

As we gather in worship, Jesus speaks to our hearts and spirits now, saying “Peace, be still.”

As we rest in your presence, Lord, may all our storms grow quiet within us.

Bring rest to our hearts, O Lord; may we feel like a leaf after a storm, when the wind is still.

ALL: May we know both your presence and your peace;  
May you receive both our praise and our thanksgiving.







# We Have Come to this Holy Place

We have come to this holy place to worship our God;  
yet sanctuary is not always built by human hands.

Everywhere I go is a sanctuary, every place a time to worship God!

When we live as if this planet and all creation, even ourselves, is a sanctuary -- a holy place  
full of the Creator's presence -- we walk differently upon this earth.

I am always on sacred ground. I must move with reverence through all creation,  
and I enter this holy place now to worship Creator!



# Honor Creator and Creation

Creator made all that is, and proclaimed that 'it is good.'

Creator, help us to discover in all You have made in Nature, the good wisdom about the interconnectedness of all things,  
about balance and about living in harmony.

We are not above nature, we are part of Creation;  
we live by the same laws as all of nature  
and need to learn from what God has made.

Creator, help us discover the power that lies  
in the wisdom and understanding of our role in the  
Great Mystery, and in honoring every living thing as a teacher.

*ALL: Creator God, may our spirits be in harmony with Yours  
as we gather in Your  
Worship!*







# We Gather in Worship

We gather in worship of Creator,  
Who has given us the power to be called His children,  
and the blessing of our place in Creation!

When I know my place, I respect the place of others -- all my relations.

When we understand that humans are just part of the created universe,  
we have a better understanding of our place.

I am part of all Creator has made,  
and I come to this holy place to praise and worship Him!



# Let Us Give Thanks

Let us give thanks for this beautiful day, for it is a gift from Creator.

Let us give thanks for the water without which life would not be possible.

Let us give thanks for Grandmother Earth who protects and nourishes us.

We give thanks for earth, air, sun, and water, in which we see the hand of Creator, even Creator Himself for He is in all He has made.

*ALL: Let us give thanks for this life. It is a gift from Creator, and we have the possibility of living it. Let us live it to His praise and glory!*







# When We See God

We see God in earth, water, sun, air -- everywhere!

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. (Psalm 19:1)

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.  
(Psalm 19:2)

How much more we could learn about Him if we would listen -- if we were open to the knowledge that pours into us every minute!

Creator is in all He has made. What beauty there is in the opportunity to interact with Him in everything we do.

Such a life indeed, becomes a living prayer. We say our prayers in unspoken language and respect whenever we harvest, plant, work or play.

ALL: When we see God in all things we live in reverence with everything around us.  
We enter now into His worship in reverence and in praise!

# Come, Let Us Worship

Come, let us worship the Creator with hearts open to all peoples,  
where pride and prejudice once dwelt;

Let us worship Creator with minds open to the wisdom of Native peoples,  
where listening and respect once had no place.

Let us honor the One who freely gives by showing honor  
to those who were once and still  
remain oppressed.

Let us worship the God of diversity,  
who made the world in colors, in seasons, in endless variety;  
who created the diversity of the earth's peoples in His image.

*ALL: We were created to honor one another  
and in so doing we honor the Creator.*

*Let us honor Him today by reflecting in our worship  
and in life His image -- love.*







# Poetry

# I Am Leaf

by Nakakakena (Boe Harris)

In the Spring I am rebirth, a mere leaf on a mighty tree nourished by Creator God

I am Leaf --

In the summer, I simmer in the daylight sun and welcome the cool breezes of the evening.

I rejoice in my creation, my Creator, and my relationship with all living things --

I am Leaf--

In the fall, I feel my nourishment being drained and I cry out in pleading breath -- "Where are you?"

But in the depth of my connection to my Creator, I know He shall rise me up again --

I am Leaf --

In the winter, I am no more -- as a seed I am dormant --

But He is, always has been, always shall be -- and at His hands . . . so shall I!

I am Leaf, one of the many gifts given to humankind.





# Mingled Tears

by Hazel June Horsechief Marshall

Lord,  
When I am in despair,  
Let my tears mingle with yours.

When no one seems to care,  
Let my tears mingle with yours.

When my spirit is hurting so,  
Let my tears mingle with yours.

When my prayers are weak and low,  
Let my tears mingle with yours.

Day after day, I try so hard,  
Let my tears mingle with yours.

My heart aches for your touch,  
Let my tears mingle with yours.

Lord, where are you? I ask.  
Let my tears mingle with yours.

A voice I hear says, "I'm here.  
Let my tears mingle with yours."

Where, Lord, I cannot see?  
Let my tears mingle with yours.

His voice says, "I'm here.  
Your tears are my tears.

The love you feel is real,  
Your tears are my tears."

His voice says, "I'm here.  
Your tears are my tears.

I hear every word of your heart,  
Your tears are my tears.

I am always there for your every need,  
Your tears are my tears.

Your pain is my pain,  
Your tears are my tears.

I love you, Child, oh, so much!  
My tears are mingled with yours!"

*Hazel June Horsechief Marshall is a member of the  
Kiowa Tribe. She is a member of Cedar Creek UMC  
in Carnegie, Oklahoma*

# Sacred Ancestral Tree of Life

by Nakakakena (Boe Harris)

I am a daughter of my mother --

Who is a daughter of her mother --

Who is a daughter of her mother --

We all are a mere branch of the sacred ancestral tree of life --

Each branch bonded together by the rich diversities of the traditions of our cultural ways --

Each branch a bearer of wisdoms, universal life values, commitments, sacrifices, courage, love and faith --

Each branch journeys toward beginnings, renewals, birth, rebirth, vision and inner spiritual illumination --

Each branch intertwines, one with the other, forming families of mothers, daughters, fathers, sons, sisters and brothers --

Each branch connected to the majestic, mighty trunk, with its roots that travel deep, deep within the rich soil, nourished by our Creator, the giver of all life --

I am a daughter of my mother --

Who is a daughter of her mother --

Who is a daughter of her mother --

We are all a mere branch of the sacred ancestral tree of life!

May we celebrate and be touched by the wonder of this universe, our own creation, and may we be filled with the pure joy of being a part of it!!



# Walk Softly

by Hazel June Horsechief Marshall

When joy fills us  
We will walk softly

When our hearts are rejoicing  
We will walk softly

When we recognize Jesus sits, walks and stands  
beside us  
We will walk softly

When we hear of pain and suffering of others  
We will walk softly

When hearts are stricken by grief  
We will walk softly

When all around us is attacking our faith  
We will walk softly

When doubt fills our days  
We will walk softly

When others are watching  
We will walk softly

As we lead others into the path of righteousness for  
His name's sake  
We will walk softly

*Boe Harris-Nakakakena (which means 'rattles with feet') is a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa and Spirit Lake Dakota tribal groups. Boe Harris-Nakakakena is a member of St. John's UMC in Seaford, Delaware.*





# Hymns



# Many and Great, O God

Joseph R. Renville

United Methodist Hymnal, No. 48

Many and great, O God, are your works,  
Maker of earth and sky.  
Your hands have set the heavens with stars;  
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.  
You merely spoke and waters were formed;  
deep seas obey your voice.

Grant us communion with you, our God,  
though you transcend the stars.  
Come close to us and stay by our side:  
with you are found the true gifts that last.  
Bless us with life that never shall end,  
eternal life with you.



# Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Traditional Native American Prayer

United Methodist Hymnal, No. 329

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

Amen.







# Cherokee Prayer for Blessing

The United Methodist Book of Worship, No. 198

May The Warm Winds Of Heaven Blow Softly Upon Your House.

May The Great Spirit Bless All Who Enter There.

May Your Mocassins Make Happy Tracks in Many Snows

May The Rainbow Always Touch Your Shoulder

# Blest be the Tie That Binds

John Fawcett

Voices: Native American Hymns and Worship Resources, No. 10

Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,  
our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part,  
it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives  
our courage by the way;  
while each in expectation lives  
and waits to see the day.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
and sin, we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity.





# The Twenty Third Psalm

A Native-American Indian Interpretation  
From the West Michigan Conference

The GREAT FATHER above a SHEPHERD  
CHIEF is.

I am His and with Him I want not.

He throws out to me a rope  
and the name of the rope is love  
and He draws me to where the grass is green  
and the water is not dangerous,  
and I eat and lie down and am satisfied.  
Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down  
but He lifts me up again and draws me into a  
good road.

His name is WONDERFUL.

Sometime, it may be very soon, it may be a long  
long time,  
He will draw me into a valley.  
It is dark there, but I'll be afraid not,  
for it is between those mountains  
that the SHEPHERD CHIEF will meet me  
and the hunger that I have in my heart all  
through life will be satisfied.

Sometimes he makes the love rope into a whip,  
but afterwards He gives a staff to lean upon.

He spreads a table before me with all kinds of  
foods.

He put His hand upon my head and all the "tired"  
is gone.

My cup he fills till it runs over.

What I tell is true.

I lie not.

These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with  
me  
through this life and after;  
and afterwards I will go to live in the Big Teepee  
and sit down with the SHEPHERD CHIEF  
forever.



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We hope you'll join us in celebration for Native American Ministries Sunday. For more Native American Ministries Sunday resources, please

visit [www.umcsgiving.org/NAMS](http://www.umcsgiving.org/NAMS)